

Message Text

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SUBJ: ECEVIT TELLS OF TURKEY'S NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTACKS

NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF INTERNAL SECURITY

REF ANKARA 8699

1. THE JANUARY 5 ISSUE OF LIBERAL-REFORMIST MILLIYET PRINTED A LENGTHY ARTICLE BY REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT ON THE OUTLOOK FOR TURKEY IN 1976 ENTITLED "IF 1975 CANNOT BE SALVAGED, AT LEAST 1976 MUST BE". ECEVIT CALLED FOR TURKEY'S MAKING THE MOST OF THE "HISTORIC OPPORTUNITIES" PRESENTED BY A WORLD IN WHICH THE SUPER POWERS HAVE ACHIEVED DETENTE. ECEVIT AMPLIFIED THIS SAYING, "IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGING WORLD CONDITIONS, TURKEY CAN DEVELOP BROAD AND BALANCED FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS, CAN CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE, CAN CONSOLIDATE A NEW

WORLD BALANCE, AND CAN GAIN A DIFFERENT AND INCREASED IMPORTANCE AND WEIGHT BY GIVING CONFIDENCE TO THE TWO SUPER POWERS OR AT LEAST BY AVOIDING PROVOKING THEIR DISTRUST". ECEVIT STATED THAT THESE NEW "BROAD AND BALANCED FOREIGN RELATIONS" WERE ALSO NECESSITATED BY A LESSENING OF INTEREST IN TURKEY BY ITS ALLIES.

2. ECEVIT FURTHER HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TURKEY'S ASSUMING A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE THIRD WORLD, WHERE "THE PEOPLES OF THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE YEARNING AND SEARCHING FOR A NEW ORDER COMPATIBLE WITH INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RAPID DEVELOPMENT". ACCORDING TO ECEVIT, TURKEY CAN BE A MODEL IN THESE AREAS FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IF (1) "IT CAN GIVE MORE IMPORTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BY BEING RESCUED FROM (ITS) INTERNAL POLITICAL CRISIS", AND IF (2) IT CAN RESOLVE PRESENT FOREIGN RELATIONS PROBELMS BY "SOLVING THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN ISSUES WITH GREECE".

3. IN ECEVIT'S OPINION, TURKEY ALSO HAS THE OPPORTUNITY OF LEADING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN PARNTERSHIP WITH THE PETROLEUM-RICH NATIONS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY, "TURKEY MUST NOT RPT NOT APPEAR AS THE WEST'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE REGION."

4. ECEVIT PLACED THE BLAME FOR TURKEY'S NOT RPT NOT BEING ABLE TO SEIZE THESE "HISTORIC OPPORTUNITIES" ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVT, WHICH HE ACCUSED OF MISMANAGEMENT OF TURKEY'S RESOURCES OF MANPOWER, GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, AND RELATIVELY ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

5. ECEVIT STATED THAT AS "THE WORLD IS NOT (RPT NOT) STANDING STILL" FOR TURKEY, "TURKEY MUST IMMEDIATELY TAKE ITS PLACE IN THE WORLD," AND, ACCORDING TO ECEVIT, THAT PLACE CAN BEST BE TAKEN UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY.

6. IN ANOTHER STATEMENT RELEASED JANUARY 5 BUT APPEARING IN THE JANUARY 6 NEWSPAPERS, ECEVIT ATTACKED THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF DOMESTIC SECURITY. ACCORDING TO ECEVIT, THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF A GOVERNMENT IS TO SAFE-GUARD DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY FOR "ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH DOES NOT (RPT NOT) PROVIDE SECURITY OF LIFE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT". POINTING TO THE STUDENT AND LABOR UNREST WHICH HAS OCCURRED UNDER THE NATIONALIST FRONT'S RULE, ECEVIT ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF "EITHER HAVING ORGANIZED THESE EVENTS OR OF BEING IRRESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO PROTECT THOSE WHO DID". CITING RECURRENT VIOLENCE IN TURKEY'S UNIVERSITIES, PARTICULARLY MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, ECEVIT STATED THAT HIS EARLIER WARNING TO STUDENTS' FAMILIES (PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTEL) TO DEFEND STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HAD BEEN JUSTIFIED BY EVENTS.

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